

Message Text

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21

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7926

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 8034

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, TW

SUBJECT: SAFEGUARDS ON CANADIAN-SUPPLIED RESEARCH REACTOR

REF: STATE 281745

1. DELAY IN RESPONDING TO REFTEL OCCASIONED BY UNAVAILABILITY OF VICTOR CHENG, SECRETARY GENERAL OF CHINESE ATOMIC ENERGY COUNCIL (CAEC) UNTIL DECEMBER 17. DURING DISCUSSION WITH CHENG ON THAT DATE QUESTIO OF POSSIBLE BILATERAL SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT ON CANADIAN-SUPPLIED RESEARCH REACTOR AND ASSOCIATED NUCLEAR MATERIALS RAISED BY ECON COUNSELOR. SUBJECT RAISED IN THE CONTEXT OF A DISCUSSION INITIATED BY CHENG CONCERNING POSSIBLE FUTURE PROBLEMS CONCERNING SAFEGUARDS ARRANGEMENTS ON ALL UNCLER FACILITIES AND MATERIALS, GIVEN THE RATHER TENUOUS NATURE OF GROC RELATIONSHI WITH IAEA. CHENG REITERATED, AS HE HAS MANY TIMES IN THE PAST, HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN MAINTAINING A VIABLE SAFEGUARDS SSTEM IN THE EVENT IAEA SAFEGUARDING BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE IN THE FUTURE. IN THIS CONTEXT CHENG POINTED OUT HE BELIEVED THAT CANADA WOULD BE UNWILLING PROVIDE BILATERAL SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT ON RESEARCH REACTOR AND NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND THAT THE GROC WOULD WELCOME IN PRINCIPLE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH USG.

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CHENG STATED THAT ONE CONDITION OF ANY SUCH AGREEMENT WOULD

HAVE TO BE CONTINUED SUPPLY OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH MATERIALS
AND THAT ANY BILATERAL AGREEMENT WHICH TOOK INTO ACCOUNT
ONLY EXISTING FACILITIES AND MATERIALS WOULD NOT BE
FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY HIS GOVERNMENT.

2. SINCE DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE IN HIGHLY THEORETICAL PLANE
AND THERE WAS NO INTIMATION OF PRECIPITOUS DISSOLUTION OF
EXISTING IAEA ARRANGEMENTS, NO DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON
POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE DISCUSSIONS OF TOPIC WITH USG.
BELIEVE THAT GROC AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO BILATERAL SAFE-
GUARDS AGREEMENT OBTAINED AND THAT SUBJECT CAN BE REASONABLY
RAISED AT ANY APPROPRIATE MOMENT IN THE FUTURE. ALSO BELIEVE
IMPLIED ASSUMPTION THAT DETAILED AND SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION
OF QUESTION WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY GROC AS SIGNAL THAT
IAEA/GROC ARRANGEMENT IN JEOPARDY IS CORRECT. UNGER

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